FEBRUARY 2015 UPDATE: CASES AT Al-FIDAA FOUNDATION WHITE DOOR CENTRE

Below find the February 2015 overview of cases presenting at the Al-Fidaa Foundation White Door Centre: The following 20 have been highlighted to give an idea of the diversity of cases.

1. A recent widow, with no income, unable to rely on her son for assistance and under pressure to legally sign her home away. She is currently undergoing some distress emotionally and physically as she had never foreseen her life or her son, turning out this way.
2. 22 year old female, faced with losing custody of her 2 children as a result of her substance abuse. She is unable to provide a home for her kids. Her mother and mother-in-law have explored options of taking guardianship of the children. Family disagreements have ensued as a result and they feel she refuses to understand that they are acting in the best interests of the children.
3. 30 year old female, previously sheltering the child of a neighbouring drug addict, feeling bereft now that the child has been relocated to a place of safety. She applied to a local child protection agency to provide a home for the child but is still feeling attached to the 11 year old. Her reasons for contacting the agency was that while she had tried to provide shelter for the 11 year old, her husband and children were constantly verbally abused and threatened by the addict father.
4. 32 year old female faced with losing her 4 year old son who was diagnosed with ADHD. Her brother and his wife had offered assistance to her in caring for the boy and she allowed him to reside with them whereupon they are now demanding payment for their assistance, else they will sue for custody and declare her an unfit mother.
5. A 49 year old mother of 3. Residing with her daughter and a grandchild. There is no income aside from child support grant.
6. 48 year old male, mugged while on vacation in Port Elizabeth. He has reported the incident to the police.
7. 55 year old widow, along with fellow occupants in a taxi robbed at knifepoint by a group of thugs who boarded the taxi at a stop. She was traumatized and unable to confide in her immediate family members as the relationship between herself and her children is under some strain.
8. Victim of domestic violence trying to make a new start as she is going through a traumatic divorce. She has had to obtain protection orders after she and her 9 year old daughter were assaulted by her husband who has a history of violence.
9. A 36 year old mother of 2 relying on her own mother’s pension. She has not applied for child support grants as she is not in possession of an identity document. The father of her children is deceased.
10. 40 year old woman who resided with a sibling whose income was the sole income. A recent injury has caused some head and neck injury to her brother. His health, recovery and financial future remain uncertain.
11. 46 year HIV positive female who has been severely assaulted by her husband who had been aware of her status since before the marriage.
12. A 20 year old female, residing with her mother as her partner provides no emotional and financial assistance to her or their toddler.
13. A 39 year old male accused of murdering a man who had allegedly assaulted his 5 year old child with a brick to the skull.
14. A 25 year old female assaulted by drunk family members. In the midst of the scuffle, she stabbed her partner. Her in-laws are now threatening to sue for guardianship of the children.
15. After the demise of a partner, a 32 year old female decided to give up her child as she felt she was not able to provide a home for their child. Having gone through the process of giving the child up for adoption, she now feels some remorse at this and is trying to seek ways of establishing a relationship with the adoptive parents, in an effort to keep a connection to the child.
16. 33 year old female, evicted by her mother. She has recently come out of a marriage with an abusive husband. The marriage was characterized by regular abuse including beating and burning.
17. 40 year old single male battling to support his children, aged 10 and 6. Does not have other family members who are able to assist him.
18. 30 year old terminally ill male, questioning his life and illness. While he is coming to terms with his illness, he feels the need to connect with family and has decided that he needs to find his father, whom he has never known or met.
19. A 25 year old female estranged from her husband after an argument. Months have passed with no word from him or concern from him about their child. She has moved in with her mother but the situation is tense and not ideal as her mother is not prepared to tolerate or accommodate “two religions in one house”.
20. Divorced father of 2, trying to make sense of events after his ex-wife accused him of kidnapping despite having sent the children to his city for a vacation. He plans to look into his options for full guardianship to provide the children with stability.